United Nations A/58/718

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 February 2004

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 117
Human rights questions

Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Assembly also decided that the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall:

(a) Be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity and possess expertise, including in the field of human rights, and the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance of the duties of the High Commissioner;

(b) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;

(c) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

2. In the light of the provisions of resolution 48/141, the Secretary-General proposes to appoint Justice Louise Arbour (Canada) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for a term of office of four years.

3. The Secretary-General trusts that the General Assembly will approve this appointment.

04-24643 (E) 230204